Statement

First Advance Estimates of production of kharif crops for 2009

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Kharif 2008	Kharif 2009	Increase/decrease over last year (+)/(-)
Rice	84.58	69.45	-15.13
Kharif Coarse cereals	28.34	22.76	-5.58
Kharif Pulses	4.78	4.42	-0.36
Kharif foodgrains	117.70	96.63	-21.07
Kharif Oilseeds**	178.82	152.33	-26.49
Cotton*	231.56	236.57	+5.01
Sugarcane**	2739.31	2494.82	-244.49

*in lakh bales
** in lakh tonnes

Low yield of pulses

135. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yield of pulses is very low in the country compared to that in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of the yield in the country and other major pulses producing countries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Tata Strategic Management Group has suggested some measures to achieve a revolution in pulses production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of yield of pulses in the country *vis-a-vis* major pulse growing countries in the world is given as under:

Yield kg/ha

		Years			
Sl. No.	Countries	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	India	577	598	612	625
2.	Franch	4555	3995	3454	3711
3.	USA	1812	1884	1721	1908
4.	Canada	2016	1998	1808	1804
5.	China	1532	1580	1644	1752
6.	Syria	693	693	694	1026
7.	Australia	950	1410	492	887

(c) and (d) Tata Strategic Management Group has published an article in this regard in the Business Standard on September 24, 2009. The Group has suggested some measures like encouraging production of pulses in rice fallow and intercropping, use of HYVs and improving seed replacement rates, proper pest and nutrient management, provision of schedule and controlled irrigation and prevention of post harvest losses. All these measures are already part and parcel of Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* ISOPOM and National Food Security Mission - Pulses programme being implemented in 14 major pulse growing States in the country. The study under reference will be further analized by this department.

MSP of sugarcane

†136. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap between production cost and Minimum Support Price of sugarcane in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether instead of increasing Government has reduced Minimum Support Price of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The 'Fair and Remunerative Price' (FRP) fixed at Rs. 129.84 per quintal for 2009-10 sugar season is about 44% higher than cost of production of sugarcane including cost of transportation to mill gate. The Central Government has taken a conscious decision to give a margin of 15% on account of profit and 25% on account of risk to farmers over and above the cost of production and transportation during the 2009-10 sugar season.

(c) No, Sir, FRP for sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs.129.84 per quintal linked to 9.5% basic recovery rate is higher than the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane during the previous season 2008-09 which was Rs.81.18 per quintal linked to 9.0% recovery rate. This works out to over 51% increase beyond the SMP for sugarcane for 2008-09, on the basis of 9.5% recovery. FRP is only a benchmark price payable will be a negotiable price between the farmers and mills and will have to be equal or above the FRP.

Decline in production of sugarcane

†137. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugarcane produced in the country for the last three years and in the current year so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a gradual decrease in the sugarcane production;

(c) if so, the reasons for fall in production and the names of the States facing this shortfall;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi